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United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the fifty-seventh session (4-15 March 2013)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures.

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Contents

Chapter		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	1
	A. Agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls	1
	B. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council	17
	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women	17
	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women	19
	C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	22
	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission	22
	D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	24
	Decision 57/101. Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women	24
II.	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	26
III.	Communications concerning the status of women	38
IV.	Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	42
V.	Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission	43
VI.	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session	44
VII.	Organization of the session	45
	A. Opening and duration of the session	45
	B. Attendance	45
	C. Election of officers	45
	D. Agenda and organization of work	46
	E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women	46
	F. Documentation	47

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

1. The following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission are transmitted to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the Council resolution 2008/29 of 24 July 2008, as an input into the annual ministerial review and the development cooperation forum.

The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. The Commission also reaffirms the international commitments made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in the Programme of Action at the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation.

3. The Commission reaffirms that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the elimination and prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as a cross-cutting issue addressed in different international instruments.

4. The Commission recalls the rules of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977.

5. The Commission recalls the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture.

6. The Commission acknowledges also the important role in the prevention and elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives and their follow-up mechanisms, in respective regions and countries.

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 95-99.

7. The Commission reaffirms the commitment to the full and effective implementation of and follow-up to all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. It also reaffirms its previous agreed conclusions on violence against women (1998) and on elimination of discrimination and violence against the girl child (2007).

8. The Commission recalls Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security and all relevant Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, including resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 on armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

9. The Commission also recalls Human Rights Council resolutions 17/11 of 17 June 2011 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in protection, 20/6 of 5 July 2012 on the elimination of discrimination against women and 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence.

10. The Commission affirms that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between women and men, and persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights. Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Violence against women and girls is characterized by the use and abuse of power and control in public and private spheres, and is intrinsically linked with gender stereotypes that underlie and perpetuate such violence, as well as other factors that can increase women's and girls' vulnerability to such violence.

11. The Commission stresses that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. The Commission also notes the economic and social harm caused by such violence.

12. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and girls. It recognizes their different forms and manifestations, in different contexts, settings, circumstances and relationships, and that domestic violence remains the most prevalent form that affects women of all social strata across the world. It also notes that women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination are exposed to increased risk of violence.

13. The Commission urges States to strongly condemn violence against women and girls committed in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and recognizes that sexual and gender-based violence affects victims and

survivors, families, communities and societies, and calls for effective measures of accountability and redress as well as effective remedies.

14. The Commission urges States to strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and girls and to refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

15. The Commission recognizes that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stresses that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

16. The Commission stresses that all States have the obligation, at all levels, to use all appropriate means of a legislative, political, economic, social and administrative nature in order to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and end impunity, and to provide protection as well as access to appropriate remedies for victims and survivors.

17. The Commission stresses that the right to education is a human right, and that eliminating illiteracy, ensuring equal access to education, in particular in rural and remote areas, and closing the gender gap at all levels of education empowers women and girls and thereby contributes to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

18. The Commission reaffirms that women and men have the right to enjoy, on an equal basis, all their human rights and fundamental freedoms. It urges States to prevent all violations of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and to devote particular attention to abolishing practices and legislation that discriminate against women and girls, or perpetuate and condone violence against them.

19. The Commission stresses that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including women's economic empowerment and full and equal access to resources, and their full integration into the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, as well as their full and equal participation in public and political life, is essential for addressing the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls.

20. The Commission also recognizes the persistence of obstacles that remain for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, and that the prevention of and response to such violence require States to act, at all levels, at each and every opportunity in a comprehensive and holistic manner that recognizes the linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as education, health, HIV and AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance and crime prevention.

21. The Commission recognizes that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social and economic policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

22. The Commission recognizes that violence against women has both short- and long-term adverse consequences on their health, including their sexual and reproductive health, and the enjoyment of their human rights, and that respecting and promoting sexual and reproductive health, and protecting and fulfilling reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, is a necessary condition to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in order to enable them to enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to prevent and mitigate violence against women.

23. The Commission expresses deep concern about violence against women and girls in public spaces, including sexual harassment, especially when it is being used to intimidate women and girls who are exercising any of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

24. The Commission expresses concern about violent gender-related killings of women and girls, while recognizing efforts made to address this form of violence in different regions, including in countries where the concept of femicide or feminicide has been incorporated in national legislation.

25. The Commission recognizes that the illicit use of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons aggravates violence, inter alia, against women and girls.

26. The Commission recognizes the vulnerability of older women and the particular risk of violence they face, and stresses the urgent need to address violence and discrimination against them, especially in the light of the growing proportion of older people in the world's population.

27. The Commission reaffirms that indigenous women often suffer multiple forms of discrimination and poverty which increase their vulnerability to all forms of violence; and stresses the need to seriously address violence against indigenous women and girls.

28. The Commission recognizes the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, in particular women's and youth organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

29. The Commission acknowledges the strategic and coordinating role of national machineries for the advancement of women, which should be placed at the highest possible level in government, for the elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls, and the need to endow these machineries with the necessary human and sufficient financial resources

to enable them to function effectively. The Commission also acknowledges the contribution of national human rights institutions where they exist.

30. The Commission recognizes the important role of the United Nations system, in particular of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in addressing discrimination and violence against women and girls at the global, regional and national levels and in assisting States, upon their request, in their efforts to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women and girls.

31. The Commission stresses the importance of data collection on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, and in that regard takes note of the work of the Statistical Commission towards a set of indicators on violence against women.

32. The Commission welcomes the progress made in addressing violence against women and girls such as the adoption of relevant laws and policies, the implementation of preventive measures, the establishment of protection and appropriate support services for victims and survivors and improvement in data collection, analysis and research. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the contributions and participation of governments, at all levels, and all relevant stakeholders in efforts to address violence against women and girls in a holistic manner.

33. The Commission recognizes that despite progress made, significant gaps and challenges remain in fulfilling commitments and bridging the implementation gap in addressing the scourge of violence against women and girls. The Commission is in particular concerned about: insufficient gender-sensitive policies; inadequate implementation of legal and policy frameworks; inadequate collection of data, analysis and research; lack of financial and human resources and insufficient allocation of such resources; and existing efforts not always being comprehensive, coordinated, consistent, sustained, transparent and adequately monitored and evaluated.

34. The Commission urges governments, at all levels, and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites national human rights institutions where they exist, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, media and other relevant actors, as applicable, to take the following actions:

A. Strengthening implementation of legal and policy frameworks and accountability

(a) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a particular matter of priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and their respective Optional Protocols, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible in order to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the

relevant treaty; and implement them fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies, and encourages State parties in their reporting to relevant treaty bodies to include requested information on measures to address violence against women and girls;

(b) Encourage the use of all relevant sources of international law, international guidelines and best practices regarding protection of victims and survivors to combat violence against women and girls;

(c) Adopt, as appropriate, review, and ensure the accelerated and effective implementation of laws and comprehensive measures that criminalize violence against women and girls and that provide for multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive and protective measures, such as emergency barring orders and protection orders, the investigation, submission for prosecution and appropriate punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, support services that empower victims and survivors, as well as access to appropriate civil remedies and redress;

(d) Address and eliminate, as a matter of priority, domestic violence through adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation that prohibits such violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against such violence;

(e) Strengthen national legislation, where appropriate, to punish violent gender-related killings of women and girls, and integrate specific mechanisms or policies to prevent, investigate and eradicate such deplorable forms of gender-based violence;

(f) Ensure women's and girls' unimpeded access to justice and to effective legal assistance so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law and criminal law, and also ensure that they have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

(g) Take the necessary legislative and/or other measures to prohibit compulsory and forced alternative dispute resolution processes, including forced mediation and conciliation, in relation to all forms of violence against women and girls;

(h) Review and where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(i) Mainstream a gender perspective into all legislation, policies and programmes, and allocate adequate financial and human resources, including through the expanded use of gender-responsive planning and budgeting, taking into account the needs and circumstances of women and girls, including victims and survivors of violence, for the development, adoption and full implementation of relevant laws, policies and programmes to address

discrimination and violence against women and girls and for support to women's organizations;

(j) Increase the investment in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the diversity of needs and circumstances of women and girls including victims and survivors of violence, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective in resource allocation and ensuring the necessary human, financial and material resources for specific targeted activities to ensure gender equality at the local, national, regional and international levels, as well through enhanced and increased international cooperation;

(k) Develop and implement effective multisectoral national policies, strategies and programmes, with the full and effective participation of women and girls, which include measures for prevention, protection and support services and responses; data collection, research, monitoring and evaluation; the establishment of coordination mechanisms; allocation of adequate financial and human resources; independent national monitoring and accountability mechanisms; and clear timelines and national benchmarks for results to be achieved;

(l) Ensure that in armed conflict and post-conflict situations the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, are prioritized and effectively addressed, including as appropriate through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, removal of barriers to women's access to justice, the establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms, the provision of support to victims and survivors, affordable and accessible health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, and reintegration measures; and take steps to increase women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes and post-conflict decision-making;

(m) Ensure accountability for the killing, maiming and targeting of women and girls and crimes of sexual violence, as prohibited under international law, stressing the need for the exclusion of such crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes, and address such acts in all stages of the armed-conflict and post-conflict resolution process, including through transitional justice mechanisms, while taking steps to ensure the full and effective participation of women in such processes;

(n) End impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of the most serious crimes against women and girls under national and international law, and stressing the need for the alleged perpetrators of those crimes to be held accountable under national justice or, where applicable, international justice;

(o) Take effective steps to ensure the equal participation of women and men in all spheres of political life, political reform and at all levels of decision-making, in all situations, and to contribute to the prevention and the elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(p) Underline commitments to strengthen national efforts, including with the support of international cooperation, aimed at addressing the rights

and needs of women and girls affected by natural disasters, armed conflicts, other complex humanitarian emergencies, trafficking in persons and terrorism, within the context of actions geared to addressing and eliminating violence against women and girls and the realization of the internationally agreed goals and commitments related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the Millennium Development Goals; and also underline the need to take concerted actions in conformity with international law to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of women and girls living under foreign occupation, so as to ensure the achievement of the above-mentioned goals and commitments;

(q) Ensure that the specific needs of women and girls are incorporated into the planning, delivery and monitoring of, and infrastructure for, disaster risk reduction programmes and protocols and humanitarian assistance to address natural disasters, including those induced by climate change such as extreme weather events and slow onset impacts, with their full participation, and that in disaster preparedness efforts and in post-disaster settings, the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, are prioritized and adequately addressed;

(r) Address violence against women and girls resulting from transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons and drug trafficking, and adopt specific policies to prevent and eradicate violence against women in crime prevention strategies;

(s) Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation, by consolidating existing mechanisms and developing new initiatives consistent with the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and by implementing the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

(t) Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that contribute to trafficking in women and girls: prevent, combat and eliminate trafficking in women and girls by criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons, in particular for the purpose of sexual and economic exploitation, as well as by strengthening existing civil and criminal legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and by bringing to justice and punishing the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials, by protecting the rights of trafficked persons and preventing revictimization; take appropriate measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked; provide identified victims of trafficking appropriate protection and care, such as rehabilitation and reintegration in society, witness protection, job training, legal assistance, confidential health care and repatriation with the informed consent of the trafficked person, regardless of their participation in any legal proceeding; and accelerate public awareness, education and training to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation;

(u) Strengthen international cooperation, including through the fulfilment of international official development assistance commitments, that supports multisectoral policies, strategies, programmes and best practices, in accordance with national priorities aimed at achieving sustainable

development and the realization of the empowerment of women, particularly towards ending violence against women and girls and promoting gender equality;

(v) Encourage private sector investment in programmes, campaigns and strategies to respond to, prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment at the workplace, and to empower victims and survivors of violence;

(w) Adopt and fund policy reforms and programmes, and support education, in order to sensitize, train and strengthen the capacity of public officials and professionals, including the judiciary, police and military, as well as those working in the areas of education, health, social welfare, justice, defence and immigration; and hold public officials accountable for not complying with laws and regulations relating to violence against women and girls, in order to prevent and respond to such violence in a gender-sensitive manner, end impunity and avoid the abuse of power leading to violence against women and the revictimization of victims and survivors;

(x) Prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women and girls that are perpetrated by people in positions of authority, such as teachers, religious leaders, political leaders and law enforcement officials, in order to end impunity for these crimes;

(y) Create and enhance a supportive environment for increased consultation and participation among all relevant stakeholders in efforts to address violence against women and girls, especially organizations working at the community level, in order to promote the empowerment of women and girls, as well as victims and survivors, so they can become agents of change and their knowledge and experience can contribute to the elaboration of policies and programmes;

(z) Support and protect those who are committed to eliminating violence against women, including women human rights defenders in this regard, who face particular risks of violence;

(aa) Take appropriate measures to ensure the human rights and protection of women and girls deprived of their liberty and/or under State custody or State care from all forms of violence, in particular sexual abuse;

(bb) Adopt a life-cycle approach in efforts to end discrimination and violence against women and girls, and ensure that specific issues affecting older women are given greater visibility and attention, are addressed through the fulfilment of obligations under relevant international conventions and agreements and are included in national policies and programmes to prevent and eliminate violence against women;

B. Addressing structural and underlying causes and risk factors so as to prevent violence against women and girls

(cc) Accelerate efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and ensure their equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to education and to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; ensure that all

children, particularly girls, have equal access to, and complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality, and renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' education at all levels, including the secondary and higher levels, in all academic areas; and increase the ability of girls to attend school and extracurricular activities by investing in public infrastructure projects and accessible quality public services and providing a safe environment;

(dd) Promote women's full participation in the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and their equal access to full employment and decent work; empower women in the informal sector; and ensure that women and men enjoy equal treatment in the workplace, as well as equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and equal access to power and decision-making, and promote sharing of paid and unpaid work;

(ee) Accelerate efforts to develop, review and strengthen policies, and allocate adequate financial and human resources, in order to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls, including gender discrimination, inequality, unequal power relations between women and men, gender stereotypes, poverty as well as their lack of empowerment, in particular in the context of the economic and financial crisis; and accelerate efforts to eradicate poverty and persistent legal, social and economic inequalities, including by strengthening the economic participation, empowerment and inclusion of women and girls, in order to decrease their risk of violence;

(ff) Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

(gg) Take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities as they are more vulnerable to all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including in the workplace, educational institutions, the home and other settings;

(hh) Undertake legislative, administrative, financial and other measures to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies, inter alia, by means of international cooperation; prioritize and intensify initiatives towards the economic empowerment of women at the grass-roots level, including through entrepreneurship education and business incubators, as a way of uplifting their status, thereby reducing their vulnerability to violence;

(ii) Refrain from using social justifications for denying women their freedom of movement, the right to own property and the right to equal protection under the law;

(jj) Design and implement national policies that aim at transforming those social norms that condone violence against women and girls, and work to counteract attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate

to men and boys or as having stereotyped roles that perpetuate practices involving violence or coercion;

(kk) Develop and implement educational programmes and teaching materials, including comprehensive evidence-based education for human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with the appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth and communities, and in coordination with women's, youth and specialized non-governmental organizations, in order to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, to eliminate prejudices and to promote and build informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships and based on gender equality and human rights, as well as teacher education and training programmes for both formal and non-formal education;

(ll) Carry out awareness-raising and education campaigns, in cooperation with civil society organizations, especially women's organizations, through different means of communication, targeting the general public, young people, men and boys, to address the structural and underlying causes of violence and abuse against women and girls; to overcome gender stereotypes and promote zero tolerance for such violence; to remove the stigma of being a victim and survivor of violence; and to create an enabling environment where women and girls can easily report incidences of violence and make use of the services available and of protection and assistance programmes;

(mm) Mobilize communities and institutions to address and change attitudes, behaviours and practices that perpetuate and condone gender stereotypes and all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, by engaging with women's and youth organizations, national machineries for the advancement of women, national human rights institutions where they exist, schools, educational and media institutions and others directly working with women and girls, men and boys and with individuals at all levels of society and in all settings, religious and community leaders and elders, teachers and parents;

(nn) Promote and protect the human rights of all women, including their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence; and adopt and accelerate the implementation of laws, policies and programmes which protect and enable the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including their reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and their review outcomes;

(oo) Develop and implement gender-sensitive policies, strategies, programmes and measures which promote greater understanding and recognition that caregiving is a critical societal function, and encourage the equal sharing of responsibilities and chores between men and women in caregiving, including for persons with disabilities, older persons and people living with HIV, as well as for child-rearing, parenting and domestic work; and

also work to change attitudes that reinforce the division of labour based on gender, in order to promote shared family responsibility for work in the home and reduce the domestic work burden for women and girls;

(pp) Engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour, to ensure that men and adolescent boys take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour, and to refrain from all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; develop, invest in and implement policies, strategies and programmes, including comprehensive education programmes to increase their understanding of the harmful effects of violence and how it undermines gender equality and human dignity, promote respectful relationships, provide positive role models for gender equality and encourage men and boys to take an active part and become strategic partners and allies in the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(qq) Review, enact and strictly enforce laws and regulations concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, raising the minimum age for marriage where necessary, and generate social support for the enforcement of these laws in order to end the practice of child, early and forced marriage;

(rr) Ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, including for girls who are already married and/or pregnant, especially educational opportunities with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education and promoting the empowerment of girls through improving educational quality and ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools, physical access to education, including by establishing safe residential facilities and childcare, and increasing financial incentives to women and their families where necessary;

(ss) Ensure the access of adolescents to services and programmes on preventing early pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV, ensuring personal safety, and preventing the use and abuse of alcohol and other harmful substances;

(tt) Develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal and informal education programmes that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, including access to a sustainable livelihood; and place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents and caregivers, on the importance of the physical and mental health and well-being of girls, including the elimination of child, early and forced marriage, violence against women and girls, female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, rape, incest and abduction, and the elimination of discrimination against girls such as in food allocation;

(uu) Develop and support existing policies and programmes targeting children and young people, especially women, who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence or sexual abuse, including protection for children in the justice system, so as to reduce the risk of their possible revictimization or perpetration of violence and restore their health; and implement such

programmes in a gender-responsive manner with the meaningful participation of young people, civil society and women's and youth organizations, and educational and health institutions;

(vv) Recognize the important role the media can play in the elimination of gender stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements, and in promoting non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive reporting, including by preserving the confidentiality of the identity of victims and survivors where appropriate; and, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, encourage the media to improve public awareness on violence against women and girls, to train those who work in the media and to develop and strengthen self-regulatory mechanisms to promote balanced and non-stereotypical portrayals of women, with a view to eliminating discrimination against and the exploitation of women and girls and to refraining from presenting them as inferior beings and to exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities, and instead present women and girls as creative human beings, key actors and contributors to and beneficiaries of the process of development;

(ww) Support the development and use of information and communications technology and social media as a resource for the empowerment of women and girls, including access to information on the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls; and develop mechanisms to combat the use of information and communications technology and social media to perpetrate violence against women and girls, including the criminal misuse of information and communications technology for sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, child pornography and trafficking in women and girls, and emerging forms of violence, such as cyberstalking, cyberbullying and privacy violations that compromise the safety of women and girls;

(xx) Improve the safety of girls at, and on the way to and from, school, including by establishing a safe and violence-free environment by improving infrastructure such as transportation and providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments; adopting national policies to prohibit, prevent and address violence against children, especially girls, including sexual harassment and bullying and other forms of violence, through measures such as conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities, and establishing and enforcing penalties for violence against girls;

(yy) Take measures to ensure that all workplaces are free from discrimination and exploitation, violence, and sexual harassment and bullying, and that they address discrimination and violence against women and girls, as appropriate, through measures such as regulatory and oversight frameworks and reforms, collective agreements, codes of conduct, including appropriate disciplinary measures, protocols and procedures, referral of cases of violence to health services for treatment and police for investigation; as well as through awareness-raising and capacity-building, in collaboration with employers, unions and workers, including workplace services and flexibility for victims and survivors;

(zz) Increase measures to protect women and girls from violence and harassment, including sexual harassment and bullying, in both public and private spaces, to address security and safety, through awareness-raising, involvement of local communities, crime prevention laws, policies, programmes such as the Safe Cities Initiative of the United Nations, improved urban planning, infrastructures, public transport and street lighting, and also through social and interactive media;

(aaa) Condemn and take action to prevent violence against women and girls in health-care settings, including sexual harassment, humiliation and forced medical procedures, or those conducted without informed consent, and which may be irreversible, such as forced hysterectomy, forced caesarean section, forced sterilization, forced abortion, and forced use of contraceptives, especially for particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged women and girls, such as those living with HIV, women and girls with disabilities, indigenous and Afro-descendent women and girls, pregnant adolescents and young mothers, older women, and women and girls from national or ethnic minorities;

(bbb) Further adopt and implement measures to ensure the social and legal inclusion and protection of women migrants, including women migrant workers in origin, transit and destination countries, and promote and protect the full realization of their human rights, and their protection against violence and exploitation; implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers and provide safe and legal channels that recognize their skills and education, provide fair labour conditions, and as appropriate facilitate their productive employment and decent work as well as integration into the labour force;

(ccc) Also take measures to ensure the protection of self-employed workers in cross-border work and women seasonal workers from violence and discrimination;

C. Strengthening multisectoral services, programmes and responses to violence against women and girls

(ddd) Establish comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses at all levels, and with the support of all available technologies, for all victims and survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls based on their needs, that are adequately resourced and include effective and coordinated action by, as appropriate, police and the justice sector, legal aid services, health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, and medical, psychological and other counselling services, including specialist services as appropriate, State and independent women's shelters and counselling centres, 24-hour hotlines, social aid services, one-stop crisis centres, immigration services, child services, public housing services to provide low threshold, easy to reach and safe assistance for women and children, as well as assistance, protection and support through access to long-term accommodation, educational, employment and economic opportunities, and take steps to ensure the safety and security of health-care workers and service providers who assist and support victims and survivors of violence, and in cases of girl child victims

ensure that such services and responses take into account the best interests of the child;

(eee) Further take measures to coordinate services through the establishment of processes for referral between services of victims and survivors while ensuring their confidentiality and safety, establish national benchmarks and timelines, and monitor their progress and implementation; as well as ensure access to coordinated multisectoral services, programmes and responses for all women and girls at risk of or subjected to violence;

(fff) Ensure the availability and accessibility for victims and survivors and their children of services, programmes and opportunities, for their full recovery and reintegration into society, as well as full access to justice, including for those subjected to domestic violence and other forms of violence, by putting in place measures, and where these exist, expanding such measures; and ensure the provision of adequate and timely information on available support services and legal measures, when possible in a language that they understand and in which they can communicate;

(ggg) Create, develop and implement a set of policies, and support the establishment of rehabilitative services, in order to encourage and bring changes in the attitudes and behaviours of perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to reduce the likelihood of reoffending, including in cases of domestic violence, rape and harassment, as well as monitor and assess their impact and effect;

(hhh) Improve access to timely, affordable and quality health systems for women and girls, including through gender-sensitive national strategies and public-health policies and programmes that are comprehensive, affordable and better targeted to addressing their needs and that encourage women's active participation in their design and implementation; and also enhance women's access to affordable, safe, effective and good quality treatment and medicines, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

(iii) Address all health consequences, including the physical, mental and sexual and reproductive health consequences, of violence against women and girls by providing accessible health-care services that are responsive to trauma and include affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicines, first line support, treatment of injuries and psychosocial and mental health support, emergency contraception, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection, diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, training for medical professionals to effectively identify and treat women subjected to violence, as well as forensic examinations by appropriately trained professionals;

(jjj) Accelerate efforts to address the intersection of HIV and AIDS and violence against all women and girls, in particular the common risk factors, including through strategies to address domestic and sexual violence, and to strengthen coordination and integration of policies, programmes and services to address the intersection between HIV and violence against women and girls, and ensure that responses to HIV and AIDS are leveraged to prevent violence against them, while meeting their specific needs for sexual and reproductive

health-care services, as well as HIV and AIDS diagnosis, affordable and accessible treatment and prevention, including procurement and supply of safe and effective prevention commodities, including male and female condoms;

(kkk) Eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls living with HIV as well as the caregivers of persons living with HIV, and take into account their vulnerability to stigma, discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities when implementing programmes and measures which encourage the equal sharing of caring responsibilities;

(lll) Expand the availability of health-care services, and in particular, strengthen maternal and reproductive health centres, as key entry points that provide support, referrals to services and protection to families, women and girls at risk of violence, especially sexual violence, and which provide support to adolescents in order to avoid early and unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, through education, information and access to sexual and reproductive health-care services;

D. Improving the evidence-base

(mmm) Carry out continued multidisciplinary research and analysis on the structural and underlying causes of, and cost and risk factors for, violence against women and girls and its types and prevalence, in order to inform the development and revision of laws and their implementation, policies and strategies, and make such information public to support awareness-raising efforts;

(nnn) Collect, collate, analyse and disseminate reliable, comparable and anonymized data and statistics on a regular basis, disaggregated by sex and age, at the national and local levels on different forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including the health costs and economic costs to society of such discrimination and violence, and also consider all other relevant factors, such as accessibility, to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes;

(ooo) Improve the collection, harmonization and use of administrative data, including, where appropriate, from the police, health sector and the judiciary, on incidents of violence against women and girls, including data on the relationship between the perpetrator and victim and geographic location, ensuring that confidentiality, ethical and safety considerations are taken into account in the process of data collection, and improving the effectiveness of the services and programmes provided and protecting the safety and security of the victim;

(ppp) Develop national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess policies and programmes, including preventive and response strategies to address violence against women and girls in both public and private spheres;

(qqq) Promote the sharing of best practices and experiences, as well as feasible, practical and successful policy and programme interventions; as well as promote the application of these successful interventions and experiences in other settings.

35. The Commission emphasizes that ending violence against women and girls is imperative, including for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and must be a priority for the eradication of poverty, the achievement of inclusive sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, health, gender equality and the empowerment of women, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and social cohesion, and vice versa. The Commission strongly recommends that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women be considered as a priority in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

B. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that in its resolutions 1987/24 of 26 May 1987, 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, 2001/4 of 24 July 2001, 2006/9 of 25 July 2006 and 2009/15 of 28 July 2009, the Council adopted multi-year programmes of work for a focused and thematic approach for the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2009/15, the Council confirmed that the Commission should maintain its current working methods, as adopted by the Council in its resolution 2006/9, and should continue to keep its working methods under review,

Recalling further that in its resolution 2009/15, the Council decided that the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2013, would discuss the possibility of conducting, in 2015, a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2]

Recalling that in its resolution 2009/15, the Council decided that at its fifty-seventh session the Commission would decide on priority themes for future sessions,

Recalling also its resolution 2012/30 of 27 July 2012, in which the Council called upon the functional commissions, the regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, within their respective mandates, to provide coherent support to the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and noting in this regard the ongoing

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 85-87.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on strengthening of the Council,

Reaffirming the central role of the Commission in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this regard stressing the need to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission,

Recognizing also that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

Recognizing the importance of civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, as well as national human rights institutions, where they exist, and all other relevant actors in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and their contribution to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and, in this respect, to the work of the Commission,

A. Methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. *Decides* that at its fifty-eighth session, in 2014, the Commission on the Status of Women should review the functioning of its methods of work, adopted by the Council in its resolution 2006/9 and confirmed in its resolution 2009/15, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session a report on ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission;

B. Theme for 2015

3. *Decides* that at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective;

4. *Calls upon* all States to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and encourages the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level can feed into the 2015 review;

5. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in this regard calls upon Governments to collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels of preparations for the 2015 review so as to benefit from their experience and expertise;

C. Themes for 2016 and beyond

6. *Decides* that at the sixtieth session of the Commission, in 2016:

(a) The priority theme will be "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development";

(b) The review theme will be "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls";

7. *Requests* the Commission at its sixtieth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixtieth session a report containing proposals on the Commission's priority themes for future sessions, bearing in mind the results of the ongoing review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 and Council resolution 2012/30.

Draft resolution II
Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[5] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[6] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 88-94.

[4] E/CN.6/2013/6.

[5] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[7]

Recalling also its resolution 2012/25 of 27 July 2012 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[8] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[9] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern also about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, revocation of residency rights, arbitrary detention and imprisonment and settler violence against Palestinian civilians, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the dire humanitarian crisis and insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including displacement and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access for pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned, in particular, about the critical socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from Israeli military operations and the imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the

[7] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[8] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[9] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, and commends the implementation of the Palestinian Authority's August 2009 plan for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[11] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907,[12] the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[13] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the international covenants on human rights, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. *Stresses* the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, to support both parties in resuming, advancing and accelerating substantive and credible peace process negotiations for

[11] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[12] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[14] and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session;[15]

7. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children,[5] the Beijing Platform for Action[6] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[7]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-seventh session[16] and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

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* For the discussion, see chaps. V and VI.

[14] S/2003/529, annex.

[15] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[16] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7* (E/2013/27).

(i) Priority theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the high-level round table on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Reports of the Secretary-General:

- Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme
- Situation of, and assistance to, Palestinian women
- Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (in accordance with resolution 56/1 of the Commission)
- Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women (in accordance with resolution 56/3 of the Commission)
- Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (in accordance with resolution 56/5 of the Commission)
- Ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following decision adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 57/101
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women*

5. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 14 and 15 March, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of the following documents:

Under agenda item 3

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;[17]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence;[18]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of violence against women and girls;[19]

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the discussion guide for the high-level round table on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;[20]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for priority themes for future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;[21]

* For the discussion, see chap. II, para. 100, and chap. IV, paras. 105 and 106.
[17] E/CN.6/2013/2.
[18] E/CN.6/2013/3.
[19] E/CN.6/2013/4.
[20] E/CN.6/2013/5.
[21] E/CN.6/2013/7.

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women;[22]

(g) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions;[23]

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the results of the fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.[24]

Under agenda item 5

(a) Letter dated 29 November 2012 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women;[25]

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the theme for the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2013, "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals".[26]

[22] A/HRC/23/17-E/CN.6/2013/8.
[23] A/67/38.
[24] E/CN.6/2013/CRP.1.
[25] E/CN.6/2013/9.
[26] E/CN.6/2013/10.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

6. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st to 12th meetings, from 4 to 12 March 2013, and at its 14th and 15th meetings, on 14 and 15 March 2013. It held a general discussion at its 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th and 14th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E/CN.6/2013/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence (E/CN.6/2013/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on prevention of violence against women and girls (E/CN.6/2013/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat transmitting a discussion guide for the high-level round table on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (E/CN.6/2013/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2013/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for priority themes for future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2013/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (A/HRC/23/17-E/CN.6/2013/8);

(h) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions (A/67/38);

(i) Note by the Secretariat on the results of the fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.1);

(j) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2013/NGO/1-228).

7. At the 1st meeting, on 4 March, opening addresses were made by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (Albania) and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

8. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); the Chair of the

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

9. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Uruguay (on behalf of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)), Cuba (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Gambia and Belgium.

10. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the observers for Fiji (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Chad (on behalf of the African States), Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Costa Rica (on behalf of the Central American Integration System) and Egypt.

11. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission agreed that the Chair's summary of the discussion of the high-level round table (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.3)[27] and the moderators' summaries of the panel discussions (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.4, E/CN.6/2013/CRP.5, E/CN.6/2013/CRP.6, E/CN.6/2013/CRP.7 and E/CN.6/2013/CRP.8)[27] would be referred to in the report of the fifty-seventh session and would be available from the website of UN-Women.

12. At the 3rd meeting, on 5 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Philippines, Estonia, Italy, Spain, Finland and the Dominican Republic.

13. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Tuvalu (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Samoa (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Tuvalu, Kiribati, Turkey, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Afghanistan, Morocco, France, Australia, Bahamas, New Zealand, India, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Norway, Andorra, Sweden, Luxembourg, Côte d'Ivoire and Fiji.

14. At the 5th meeting, on 6 March, statements were made by the representatives of Malawi (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Malawi, Liberia, Guinea, Nicaragua, Mauritania, Niger, the Netherlands, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Mongolia, the United States of America, Rwanda and Brazil.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Canada, Mali, South Africa, Samoa, Lesotho, Botswana, Tonga, Namibia, Ecuador, Burundi, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia, Guatemala, Senegal, Ethiopia, Gabon, Haiti and Cameroon.

16. Also at the 5th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the State of Palestine.

17. At the 7th meeting, on 7 March, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Argentina, Thailand, Cuba, Colombia and Indonesia.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Denmark, Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania, Azerbaijan, Greece, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Peru, Paraguay, Panama, South Sudan, Pakistan,

[27] Available from the website of the Commission.

Cambodia, the Sudan, Lithuania, Qatar, Slovenia, Switzerland, Latvia, Vanuatu, Antigua and Barbuda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Chile, Austria, Seychelles and Croatia.

19. Also at the 7th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Economic Community of Western African States.

20. At the 7th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Status of Women in New York.

21. At the 9th meeting, on 11 March, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, El Salvador, Belarus, Iraq, Germany, Israel, Uruguay and Malaysia.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Burkina Faso, Honduras, Nepal, Kenya, Togo, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Equatorial Guinea, Suriname, Iceland, Barbados, Costa Rica, Myanmar, Monaco, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Moldova, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Armenia, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Tunisia, the Congo, Ukraine, Libya and Portugal.

23. At the 10th meeting, on 11 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Georgia, Swaziland, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea, China and the Russian Federation.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Viet Nam, Lebanon, Timor-Leste, the Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria and Kuwait.

25. Also at the 10th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

26. At the 10th meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the following intergovernmental organizations: Association internationale des conseils économiques et sociaux et institutions, International Olympic Committee, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Inter-Parliamentary Union and Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (also on behalf of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

28. Also at the 10th meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations made statements: Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro, Working Group on Girls and European Women's Lobby.

29. At the 10th meeting, the representatives of Azerbaijan, Japan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Armenia and the Republic of Korea made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

30. At the 14th meeting, on 14 March, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations made statements: HelpAge International; Femmes Afrique solidarité; Young Women's Caucus; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; Association for Women's Rights in Development; International Indigenous Women's Forum/Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas; Public Health Institute; Soroptimist International; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; International PEN; Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit — COC Nederland; Defence for Children International; Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches; Amnesty International; Canadian Federation of University Women; and Forum for Women and Development.

A. Agenda item 3 (a) (i)

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

1. High-level round table*

31. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 March, the Commission held a high-level round table in two parallel meetings on the priority theme "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls".

High-level round table A

32. High-level round table A was chaired by the Chair of the Commission, Marjon V. Kamara (Liberia), who made an opening statement.

33. The following delegations participated in the interactive dialogue: France, Portugal, Turkey, Finland, China, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, Kazakhstan, Solomon Islands, Ghana, Brazil, India, Bahrain, Denmark, Nigeria, Mauritania, Slovenia, Liechtenstein, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, South Africa, Samoa, Uganda, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Côte d'Ivoire, Uruguay, Philippines, Sudan, Guinea, Spain, United States, Niger, Jamaica and Pakistan.

34. The observer for the State of Palestine also participated.

35. The observers for the following intergovernmental organizations participated: European Union, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Council of Europe.

36. The Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, Lakshmi Puri, and the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Nicole Ameline, responded to the questions and comments from delegations and summarized the key points of the discussion.

* See the Chair's summary of the round-table discussion (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.3), available from the website of the Commission.

High-level round table B

37. The Commission held a high-level round table chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Carlos Enriquez García González (El Salvador).

38. The following delegations participated in the interactive dialogue: Canada, Australia, Egypt, Botswana, Cameroon, Angola, Italy, New Zealand, Morocco, Poland, Zimbabwe, Luxembourg, Islamic Republic of Iran, Greece, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Indonesia, Panama, Chile, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Qatar, Zambia, Georgia, Argentina, Mozambique, Cambodia, Estonia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Belarus, Ecuador and Japan.

39. The representative of the International Labour Organization also participated.

40. The Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, Kate Gilmore, and the Executive Director of Women's Aid Organization in Malaysia, Ivy Josiah, responded to the questions and comments from delegations and summarized the key points of the discussion.

41. The Vice-Chair of the Commission (El Salvador) made concluding remarks.

2. Panel discussion

Key policy initiatives and capacity-building for gender mainstreaming: elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls: focus on the prevention of violence against women and girls*

42. At its 4th meeting, on 5 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the priority theme "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls: focus on the prevention of violence against women and girls", moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Ana Marie Hernando (Philippines).

43. Presentations were made by Mervat El-Tallawy, President, National Council of Women, Egypt; Pinar Ilkkaracan, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education and Counselling, Bosphorus University, Turkey; Liina Kanter, Head, Department of Gender Equality, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia; Marai Larasi, Executive Director, Imkaan, United Kingdom; and Claudia Garcia Moreno Esteva, team leader, Sexual Health, Gender, Reproductive Rights and Adolescence, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization.

44. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Israel, Italy, Spain, United States, Russian Federation, Indonesia, Philippines, China, Belgium, Brazil, Georgia, Switzerland, El Salvador, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Korea and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

45. The observers for New Zealand, Angola, Morocco, Australia, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, Viet Nam, Sweden, Timor-Leste, the Sudan, Samoa, Paraguay and Ecuador participated.

46. The observer for the State of Palestine also participated.

* See the moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.6), available from the website of the Commission.

47. The observer for the European Union also participated.

48. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Latin American Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights and the Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer.

B. Panel discussion on agenda items 3 (a) (i) and 3 (c)

Key policy initiatives and capacity-building for gender mainstreaming: elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls: focus on multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence*

49. At its 6th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the priority theme "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls: focus on multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence", moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Filippo Cinti (Italy).

50. Presentations were made by Eva Giberti, Coordinator, Victims against Violence Programme, Argentina; Akima Thomas, Founder and Clinical Director, Women and Girls Network, United Kingdom; Rashida Manjoo, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; Betty Mwewa Timba Ngulube, Senior Superintendent, Zambia National Police; and Luisa Marcal, Nurse Counsellor, Psychosocial Recovery and Development, Timor-Leste.

51. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of the following delegations participated: China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Italy, Brazil, Malaysia, United States, Cuba, Japan, El Salvador, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Israel.

52. The observers for Canada, Mexico, Iceland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), the Sudan, Paraguay, Panama, Equatorial Guinea, India, Morocco, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Turkey and Albania participated.

53. The observer for the European Union also intervened.

54. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos and Mujer para la Mujer.

* See the moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.4), available from the website of the Commission.

C. Panel discussions under agenda item 3 (a) (ii)

Progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the fifty-third session of the Commission: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS: focus on gender norms and stereotypes, socialization and unequal power relations, and sharing and balancing life-work responsibilities*

55. At its 11th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the review theme on "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS", in two segments that were moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Irina Velichko (Belarus).

56. The first segment focused on gender norms and stereotypes, socialization and unequal power relations. Presentations were made by Fatou Sow Sarr, Director, Gender Laboratory, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal; and Warren Feek, Executive Director, The Communication Initiative Network, New Zealand.

57. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of the Philippines, Germany, China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Rwanda participated.

58. The observers for Senegal, Switzerland, Paraguay, Cameroon, Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Nigeria, South Africa, Australia, Tuvalu, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Kenya, Ghana, Turkey and Bahrain also participated.

59. The observer for the European Union also intervened.

60. The Chief of the Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch of the United Nations Population Fund, Luis Mora, as the discussant, summarized the key points of the discussion.

61. The second segment focused on sharing and balancing life-work responsibilities. Presentations were made by Niclas Järvklo, Secretary, Inquiry on Men and Gender Equality, Ministry of Education and Research, Sweden; and Lucia Zachariášová, Head, Gender Equality Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Czech Republic.

62. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Italy, Colombia, the Philippines and Germany participated.

63. The observers for Uganda, Burkina Faso, Australia, Mexico, Kenya, Ecuador and Nigeria participated.

64. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: European Women's Lobby and International Trade Union Conference.

65. The Focal Point for the Family, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Renata Kaczmarska, as the discussant, summarized the key points of the discussion.

* See the moderator's summary of the panel discussions (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.7), available from the website of the Commission.

Progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the fifty-third session of the Commission: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS: focus on caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, and recognizing and valuing unpaid care work*

66. At its 12th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission held a second panel discussion on the review theme on "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS", also in two segments that were moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Filippo Cinti (Italy).

67. The first segment focused on caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS. Presentations were made by Violet Shivutse, Founder and Director, Shibuye Community Health Workers, and Focal Point Leader, GROOTS Kenya; and Baby Rivona, National Coordinator, Ikatan Perempuan Positif Indonesia.

68. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of Finland (on behalf of Nordic countries), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China, Brazil, the Philippines, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Rwanda participated.

69. The observers for Poland, Senegal, Burkina Faso, the Sudan, Morocco, Uganda, South Africa and Ecuador participated.

70. The observer for the European Union also intervened.

71. The representative of the International AIDS Society, a non-governmental organization, also participated in the dialogue.

72. The Chief of the Gender Division, UNAIDS, Jantine Jacobi, as the discussant, summarized the key points of the discussion.

73. The second segment focused on recognizing and valuing unpaid care work. Presentations were made by Francisco Guillén Martín, Deputy Director of National Accounts, National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico; and Souad Triki, economist, gender and development expert and retired Senior Lecturer, University of Tunisia.

74. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of Italy, Colombia and the Philippines participated.

75. The observers for Switzerland and Kenya participated.

76. The representative of the Institute of International Social Development, a non-governmental organization, also participated in the dialogue.

77. The Technical Adviser, UN-Women, Mexico, Paz López, summarized the key points of the discussion.

* See the moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.8), available from the website of the Commission.

D. Panel discussion under agenda item 3 (b)

Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework*

78. At its 8th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework", moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Irina Velichko (Belarus).

79. Presentations were made by John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN-Women; Anita Nayar, Executive Committee Member, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; and Caren Grown, Economist-in-Residence, American University, and Senior Gender Advisor, United States Agency for International Development.

80. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Italy, El Salvador, Thailand, Philippines, Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Israel, Republic of Korea, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Brazil.

81. The observers for the United Kingdom, Norway (also on behalf of Iceland and New Zealand), South Africa, Malta, Morocco, Australia, Switzerland and Nigeria participated.

82. The observers for the European Union and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies intervened.

83. The representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development participated.

84. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Huairou Commission: Women, Homes and Community; Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; IPAS; Women for Women International; Women in Law and Development in Africa; Misión Mujer; ActionAid; and Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit — COC Nederland.

Action taken by the Commission

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

85. At its 15th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women" (E/CN.6/2013/L.2), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Filippo Cinti (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations.

* See the moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.5), available from the website of the Commission.

86. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

87. Also at the 15th meeting, following a statement by the Vice-Chair (Italy), the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution I).

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

88. At the 14th meeting, on 4 March, the observer for Fiji, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2013/L.4).

89. At its 15th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

90. At the same meeting, the observer for Fiji made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

91. Also at the same meeting, Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

92. Also at the 15th meeting, following a statement by the representative of Israel, the Commission adopted the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 25 to 2, with 10 abstentions and recommended it for adoption by the Council (see chap. I, sect. B). The voting was as follows:[28]

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Niger, Philippines, Russian Federation, Swaziland, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Spain.

93. Statements were made before the vote by the representatives of Italy (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States.

94. Statements were made after the vote by the representatives of the Russian Federation and Japan, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

Agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

95. At the 15th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission had before it the draft agreed conclusions entitled "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls", as contained in an informal paper and submitted by the

[28] The delegations of the Dominican Republic and Mongolia indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Chair of the Commission, Marjon V. Kamara (Liberia), on the basis of informal consultations.

96. The Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions and decided to transmit them to the Council, in accordance with Council resolution 2008/29, as an input to the annual ministerial review and the development cooperation forum (see chap. I, sect. A).

97. Before the adoption of the draft agreed conclusions, statements were made by the representatives of Libya and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as by the observers for the Sudan, Nigeria, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Honduras.

98. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Nicaragua and the United States, as well as by the observers for Chile and Nigeria.

99. A statement was also made by the observer for the Holy See.

Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women

100. At its 15th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission decided to take note of a number of documents before it under the agenda item (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 57/101).

Chapter III
Communications concerning the status of women

101. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 13th (closed) meeting, on 14 March 2013. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 103 below);[29]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2013/SW/COMM.LIST/47/R and Add.1).

Action taken by the Commission

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

102. At its 13th meeting (closed), on 13 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women.

103. At the same meeting (closed), the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Working Group and to incorporate it in the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in a closed meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2013/SW/COMM.LIST/47/R and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women since no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the 85 confidential communications, comprising 86 cases addressed to 40 States, received directly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were 55 replies from 19 Governments.

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, which stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments,

[29] The report was circulated internally under document symbol E/CN.6/2013/CRP.2.

which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted as well as communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape, marital rape, gang rape, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation, and sexual harassment, including in the workplace, committed by private individuals, military, security and law enforcement personnel, and armed groups, including in detention and detention-related situations, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations, and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection, support and reparation for victims and their families, and failure by States to ensure access to justice;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, early marriage, child and forced marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, and trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection, support and reparation for victims and their families, and failure by States to ensure access to justice;

(c) Killings of women, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to adopt or implement adequate legislation and to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish all perpetrators;

(d) Abuse of power by security forces and paramilitary groups, humiliation, lack of due process and delays in proceedings, arbitrary arrest and detention, failure to grant a fair trial and impunity resulting from failure by States to promptly investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators;

(e) Threats and pressure on victims of violence, their families and witnesses by private individuals and law enforcement officials, often preventing them from filing complaints or leading them to withdraw their complaints;

(f) Inhuman treatment, including torture, in detention and penitentiary systems, and inadequate conditions of imprisonment for women;

(g) Serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, some of which target specific groups, such as indigenous women,

women of African descent, migrant women and women belonging to minorities, including ethnic and religious minorities, including harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, rape, torture, abduction and enforced disappearance, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection, support and reparation for victims and their families, and failure by States to ensure access to justice;

(h) Intimidation, harassment and detention of women human rights defenders and their families, and restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression of women human rights defenders, as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their human rights work, as well as failure by States to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations, and to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection to women human rights defenders, and failure by States to ensure access to justice;

(i) Violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, of women and girls, including in medical facilities, and restricted access to services, including gynaecological and obstetric services, and discrimination on the basis of HIV-positive status;

(j) Discrimination resulting from stereotypical practices and attitudes towards women, including through the media, and in the areas of education, employment, personal status, marriage and divorce;

(k) Absence of adequate legislation to address and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women;

(l) Ineffective implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights, and lack of compliance with regional judicial mechanisms;

(m) Legislation and/or stereotypical practices that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights, including freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of movement, and participation in decision-making processes and in public life on an equal basis with men;

(ii) Personal status, marriage, divorce, and custody of children;

(iii) The right to property;

(iv) Employment;

(v) Education, including access to education;

(vi) Access to justice.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and consideration of the question whether any of these appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture, killings and domestic violence, as well as harassment, mistreatment and detention of women human rights defenders and their families;

(b) Early marriage, child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and their adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of their fundamental rights, including the right to health;

(c) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and discrimination against specific groups of women in access to health care;

(d) The persisting climate of impunity and abuse of power, including where violence against women, including sexual violence, is perpetrated or condoned by security forces and law enforcement personnel;

(e) The failure by States, in contravention of their human rights obligations, to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls and adequately investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide compensation, protection and assistance to victims and their families;

(f) The persistence of gender stereotypes;

(g) The continued existence of legislation or practices in many areas that discriminate against women, or have the effect of discriminating against women, despite States' international obligations and commitments and constitutional provisions to outlaw such discrimination;

(h) Discrimination and violence against vulnerable groups of women and girls.

9. The Working Group appreciated the cooperation by Governments that had submitted replies or clarifying observations to the communications received and called upon all those who had not done so to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential in order for it to discharge its duties effectively, noting in this regard the importance of receiving replies from Governments. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments had carried out investigations into the allegations made, explained their positions, or taken measures, including enacting new legislation, improving the enforcement of existing legislation, establishing new mechanisms, conducting legal reform, introducing policies and services, such as health-related services, to better protect and assist women, including women victims of violence, developing national plans of action, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence, introducing targeted measures for the promotion of women's rights, making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women and improving public awareness-raising activities and training to promote gender equality and the advancement of women in accordance with relevant international standards.

Chapter IV
Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

104. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 14th meeting on 14 March 2013.

105. At the meeting, the Chair of the Commission, Marjon V. Kamara (Liberia), drew the attention of the Commission to the following documents issued under the item:

(a) Letter dated 29 November 2012 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2013/9)

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the theme for the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2013, "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals" (E/CN.6/2013/10).

106. Also at the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of the documents (see chap. I, sect. D).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission

107. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 15th meeting, on 15 March 2013. It had before it the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2013/L.3).

108. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-eighth session and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session

109. At the 15th meeting, on 15 March 2013, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Filippo Cinti (Italy), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session, as contained in document E/CN.6/2013/L.1.

110. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-seventh session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

111. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 15 March 2013. The Commission held 15 meetings (1st to 15th).

112. The session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Marjon V. Kamara (Liberia), who also made a statement.

113. At the 1st meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (Albania) and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

114. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

115. At the 10th meeting, on 11 March, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, made presentations and responded to comments and questions posed by the representatives of China and Belarus, as well as by the observer for the European Union.

B. Attendance

116. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Election of officers

117. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers are elected to the Bureau of the Commission for a term of office of two years. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the fifty-sixth session, on 14 March 2011 and 27 February 2012, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions:

Chair:
Marjon Kamara (Liberia)

Vice-Chairs:
Irina Velichko (Belarus)
Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador)
Ana Marie Hernando (Philippines)

Vice-Chair and Rapporteur:
Filippo Cinti (Italy)

D. Agenda and organization of work

118. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March 2013, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2013/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;
      (ii) Review theme: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session.

119. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2013/1/Add.1.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

120. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the Working Group for the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions:

Li Xiaomei (China)
Fatima Alfeine (Comoros)
Ruben Armando Escalante Hasbún (El Salvador)
Noa Furman (Israel)
Grigory Lukiyantsev (Russian Federation)

F. Documentation

121. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-seventh session is available from: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw57/documentation.htm.

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